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## HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

### NOTIFICATION

*New Delhi, the 14th July, 1952.*

**No. 136-C/52.**—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 118 of the Constitution of India, the Speaker of the House of the People hereby makes the following amendments in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House of the People, published under Notification No. 113-C/52, dated the 17th April, 1952, in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part 1, Section 1 of the 17th April, 1952, namely:—

#### *Amendments*

The existing rules 263 and 264 shall be deleted and, the following rules shall be inserted as rules 263 to 285 and further the existing rules 265 to 280 shall be re-numbered accordingly:—

263. The members of a Parliamentary Committee shall be appointed by the House on a motion made or nominated by the Speaker as the case may be.

Appoint-  
ment of a  
Parlia-  
mentary  
Committee.

264. (1) The Chairman of the Committee shall be appointed by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Committee:

Chairman  
of the Com-  
mittee.

Provided that if the Deputy Speaker is a member of the Committee, he shall be appointed Chairman of the Committee.

(2) If the Chairman is for any reason unable to act, the Speaker may similarly appoint another Chairman in his place.

(3) If the Chairman is absent from any meeting the Committee shall choose another member to act as Chairman for that meeting.

**Quorum.**

265. (1) The quorum to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be, as near as may be, one-third of the total number of members.

(2) If at any time fixed for any meeting of the Committee, or if at any time during any such meeting, there is no quorum the Chairman of the Committee shall either suspend the meeting until there is a quorum or adjourn the meeting to some future day.

(3) When the Committee has been adjourned in pursuance of sub-rule (2) on two successive dates fixed for meetings of the Committee, the Chairman shall report the fact to the House.

**Discharge of members absent from meetings of the Committee.**

266. If a member is absent from two or more consecutive meetings of the Committee without the permission of the Chairman, a motion may be moved in the House for the discharge of such member from the Committee.

**Voting in Committee.**

267. All questions at any sitting of the Committee shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting.

**Casting vote of Chairman.**

268. In the case of an equality of votes on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

**Power to appoint sub-committees.**

269. (1) The Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees, each having the powers of the undivided Committee, to examine any matters that may be referred to them, and the reports of such sub-committees shall be deemed to be the reports of the whole Committee if they are approved at a meeting of the whole Committee.

(2) The order of reference to a sub-committee shall clearly state the point or points for investigation. The report of the sub-committee shall be considered by the whole Committee.

**Sittings of Committee.**

270. The sittings of the Committee shall be held on such days and at such hour as the Chairman of the Committee may fix:

Provided that if the Chairman of the Committee is not readily available, the Secretary may, fix the date and time of a sitting.

271. The Committee may sit whilst the House is sitting Committee may sit whilst the House is sitting.  
provided that on a division being called in the House, the Chairman of the Committee shall suspend the proceedings in the Committee for such time as will in his opinion enable the members to vote in a division.

272. The sittings of the Committee shall be held in private. Sittings of Committee in private.

273. The sittings of the Committee shall be held with- Venue of sittings.  
in the precincts of the Parliament House, and if it becomes necessary to change the place of sitting outside the Parliament House, the matter shall be referred to the Speaker whose decision shall be final.

274. All persons other than members of the Committee and officers of the Parliament Secretariat shall withdraw whenever the Committee is deliberating. All strangers to withdraw when the Committee is deliberating.

275. (1) A witness may be summoned by an order signed by the Secretary and shall produce such documents as are required for the use of the Committee. Power to take evidence or call for papers, records or documents.

(2) It shall be in the discretion of the Committee to treat any evidence tendered before it as secret or confidential.

(3) No document submitted to the Committee shall be withdrawn or altered without the knowledge and approval of the Committee.

276. Parliamentary Committees shall have power to send for persons, papers and records. Power of Parliamentary Committees to send for persons, papers and records.

277. The Committee may, under the direction of the Speaker, permit a witness to be heard by a counsel appointed by him and approved by the Committee. Witness can appoint a counsel to appear before Committee.

278. (1) All evidence shall be taken on oath. Oath.

(2) The form of the oath shall be as follows:—

“I swear in the presence of Almighty God (or solemnly affirm) that the evidence which I shall give in this case shall be true, that I will conceal nothing, and that no part of my evidence shall be false. So help me God.”

Evidence re-  
port pro-  
ceedings  
treated as  
confidential.

279. No part of the evidence, oral or written, report or proceedings of the Committee which has not been laid on the Table of the House shall be open to inspection by any one except under the authority of the Speaker.

Procedure  
for examin-  
ing witnesses.

280. The examination of witnesses before the Committee shall be conducted as follows:—

- (1) The Committee shall, before a witness is called for examination, decide the mode of procedure and the nature of questions that may be put to the witness.
- (2) The Chairman of the Committee may first put to the witness such question or questions as he may consider necessary with reference to the subject-matter under consideration or any connected subject thereto according to the mode of procedure mentioned in sub-rule (1) of this rule.
- (3) The Chairman may call other members of the Committee one by one to put any other questions.
- (4) A witness may be asked to place before the Committee any other relevant points that have not been covered and which a witness thinks are essential to be placed before the Committee.
- (5) A verbatim record of proceedings of the Committee when a witness is summoned to give evidence shall be kept.

Report of  
the Com-  
mittee.

281. (1) Where the House has not fixed any time for the presentation of the report, the report shall be presented within one month of the date on which reference to the Committee was made:

Provided that the House may at any time, on a motion being made, direct that the time for the presentation of the report by the Committee be extended to a date specified in the motion.

(2) Reports may be either preliminary or final.

Availability  
of report  
before pre-  
sentation  
to Govern-  
ment.

282. The Committee may, if it thinks fit, make available to Government any completed part of its report before presentation to the House. Such reports shall be treated as confidential until presented to the House.

283. The report of the Committee shall be presented to the House by the Chairman or in his absence by any member of the Committee. Presentation of report.

284. (1) The Speaker may from time to time issue such directions to the Chairman of the Committee as he may consider necessary for regulating its procedure and the organisation of its work. Power of Speaker to give direction on a point of procedure or otherwise.

(2) If any doubt arises on any point of procedure or otherwise, the Chairman may, if he thinks fit, refer the point to the Speaker whose decision shall be final.

285. A Parliamentary Committee which is unable to complete its work before the dissolution of the House may report to the House that the Committee has not been able to complete its work. Any preliminary report, memorandum or note that the Committee may have prepared or any evidence that the Committee may have taken shall be made available to the new Committee. Unfinished work of Parliamentary Committees.

By Order of the Speaker,  
M. N. KAUL,  
Secretary.

